the telephone services are given below:

Local Telephone Services:—

1. Replacement of life-expired and worn out telephone exchange by modern switching system and provision of adequate spares for maintenance of serviceable equipment;

2. Improvement and expansion of inter-exchange junction network with provision of cable PCM and microwave systems;

3. Rehabilitation of the external plant which is the weakest link of the system by use of jelly fined cables, pressurisation of dry cables. providing ducts dressing up of DPS, cabinets and pillars.

4. Inducting electronic telephone exchanges in a number of cities.

5. To reduce complaints on Directory Enquiry Service, this service is being computerise.

Long Distance Trunk Telephone Services.

1. Stable and reliable transmission media are being provided for long distance trunk circuits, over the satellite, Microwave, Coaxial and UHF (Radio Systems), linking the national, main and difficult terrain routes.

2. Stand by trunk circuits to keep the trunk services working round the clock have been provided on the national/main routes.

3. A close watch is kept over the performance of the Trunk Manual Exchanges working at the State Capitals, through a close surveillance and monitoring cell.

4. Additional|New Trunk Circuits have been provided wherever justified to cope with the trunk traffic to minimize delays on trunk calls.

5. Additional trunk Boards have been provided wherever justified.

6. Employment of short duty|Reserve Trained Pool staff, telephone operators to make up for absenteeism

7. Provision of Demand Trunk Routes wherever justified.

8. Opending of additional Demand Trunk Manual Exchanges such as in Bombay (Prabhadevi).

9. Provision of good quality headgear sets.

10. Provision of Electronic Trunk Timing Indicators.

Besides, the following are being planned:—

1. Provision of Push Button Diallers.

2. Provision of a 'POSTEX' (Paperless Operation of Trunk Exchange) at Trivandrum on experimental basis as a first step towards computerisation of Trunk Manual Exchanges in the country.

3. Increasing the capacities of electronic trunk automatic exchanges and phasing out the pentaconta crossbar trunk automatic exchange equipment which is responsible for failure of STD calls.

4. Provision of Digital Trunk Automatic Exchange has been planned for 17 stations in the country.

Introduction of Modern Techniques in Telephone Service

623. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and the number of cities in the country in which sophisticated and modern techniques have been introduced in telecommunication;

(b) the names and the number of places in the country, state-wise where digitalisation projects have been introduced; and

(c) the names of the cities in the country in which electronic telephones have been introduced or are proposed to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Electronic exchanges have been commissioned at 33 places mentioned in the Statement.

(b) Digitalization projects (Integrated Digital Networks) have not been introduced any where in the country so far.

(c) Electronic telephone instruments have been introduced in Delhi. Bombay & Calcutta. It is also proposed to introduce these instruments progressively in the cities where electronic telephone exchanges are coming up.

Cities where electronic exchanges have been commissioned

1. Bombay
2. Delhi
3. Calcutta
4. Madras
5. Ahmedabad
6. Hyderabad
7. Kanpur
8. Pathankot
9. Sriganganagar
10. Sirsa
11. Gandhidham
12. Veraval
13. Kurnool
14. Dibrugarh
15. Imphal
16. Karur
17. Guragaon
18. Gulbarga
19. Changanacherry
20. Pali-Marwar
21. Udipi
22. Porbander
23. Tinsukhia
24. Beawar
25. Mehs-ana
26. Gaya
27. Kosikalan (UP)
28. Nainital
29. Ujhani (UP)
30. Almora
31. Chilakaluripet (AP) (Telex)
32. Nizanabad (Telex)
33. Udyamperoor (Eranakulam) (ILT)

LPG Cylinder unit in West Bengal

624. SHRI SHANTIMOY GHOSH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the absence of an LPG cylinder manufacturing unit in West Bengal, the state is facing a serious problem of shorage of LPG cylinders;

(b) whether a fully equipped LPG cylinder unit in Durgapur is awaiting Government's clearance for starting production; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) There is no shortage of cylinders for supply of LPG in West Bengal.

(b) and (c) A cylinder manufacturing unit under the name of M|s Bengal Tools Limited has been recently cleared by the Technical audit team of the oil industry for commercial production. This unit would be considered for placement of orders in terms of the policy from time to time for procurement of the requirements of the oil industry.

Targets for production of LPG cylinders

625. SHRI SHANTIMOY GHOSH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set for the production of LPG cylinders in the country